

# ALBERTA ELKS NEWS

## Provincial President

*Barbara Evans*



Friends....

It takes a special kind of person to devote part of their lives and to accept the challenge of serving their communities and as Elks, that's who we are. Even this year, with the especial challenges of COVID 19, the members and the Lodges have found ways to stay in touch and to serve their friends and communities as they have been allowed. On behalf of your Association, I wish to applaud and thank each and every Elk member and Lodge for their time and dedication to the Order and their communities. Nothing about 2020 has been "normal" but with the continued dedication of each of you, we will face these challenges and come out on the other side stronger and ready to move forward... to once again rejoin our brothers and sisters in service and comradery. We must, however, be realistic and as the President, I know that I will be unable to fulfill the normal role with Lodge visits and attendance at special events until things turn around. For that, I am sorry, but I hope that through the use of other means such as this newsletter and use of social media you will feel that you have been kept informed. The Executive of the Association and the Foundation have remained in place and over the coming months will continue to strive to move strategically forward so that we can find ways to better serve the members and lodges. Please remember that the Alberta Elks Foundation and Tabs for Tots program are always ready, willing and able to offer financial assistance with your charitable work. The Association, through the guidance of its committees will be developing new tools and programs to help Lodges become stronger. If you have any interest in becoming involved in the planning and implementation of new ideas, please let the Association Secretary know so we may include you in our work. The Association and the Foundation must find ways to trim the administrative costs so that all of the funds we raise can better be channelled into areas that will increase the Lodges' abilities to serve their communities. Change is difficult, but if COVID has shown us nothing else, it's that we have the ability and the courage to manage change and make lives sweeter, people better and our communities happier.

In Elkdom,  
Barbara Evans



**ELKS OF  
CANADA**

EST. 1912



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# Foundation News

Alberta Elks Foundation



## 51<sup>ST</sup> RAFFLE WINNERS

### 51<sup>ST</sup> RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - \$30,000.00                 | Marty Lamoureux – Red Deer AB<br>(Ticket sold by Red Deer Elks Lodge)       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$10,000.00                 | Denise Horseman – Hythe AB<br>(Ticket sold by Beaverlodge Elks Lodge)       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$5,000.00                  | Rob Pomreinke – Medicine Hat AB<br>(Ticket sold by Medicine Hat Elks Lodge) |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Prize - \$1,500.00<br>Fas Gas Cards | Jennifer Budden – Sedgewick AB<br>(Ticket sold by Hardisty Elks Lodge)      |

### 51<sup>ST</sup> RAFFLE EARLY BIRD PRIZE WINNERS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - \$500 Fas Gas Gift Cards | Carol Lee – Elk Point AB<br>(Ticket sold by Elk Point Elks Lodge)      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$750 Fas Gas Gift Cards | Melanie Sorensen – St. Paul AB<br>(Ticket sold by St. Paul Elks Lodge) |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$750 Fas Gas Gift Cards | Kim Ainsley – Camrose AB<br>(Ticket sold by Camrose Elks Lodge)        |

Raffle Chair – Margo Ward – email [meward25@telus.net](mailto:meward25@telus.net); phone 403-556-5201



1st Prize Winner Marty Lamoureux



2nd Prize Winner Denise Horseman



3rd Prize Winner Rob Pomreinke

## Special Thank You To Sister Margo Ward



Did you know that the fabulous Sister Margo Ward is the very organized, very dedicated Raffle Chair? Thank you for all you do Sister Margo!



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# Elks Proud



Exalted Ruler Doug Yuha (left) of the Rosalind Elks is presenting cheques to Gary Barber (right) on behalf of The Rosalind Elks club and The Alberta Elks Foundation. Spearheaded by the Rosalind Elks, both organizations joined forces to co-fund the purchase of a new \$3500 scooter for Valerie Barber (seated) allowing her greater mobility in her daily activities.



Ralph Shockey presenting a cheque for 6,000 dollars to the Sturgeon Community Hospital foundation. Katrina Black, president of the Sturgeon Community Hospital Foundation is the recipient. Malcom Parker, Elks member who lined up this opportunity to help the community is in the middle. The money is being used to purchase two vital signs monitors.



On July 5, 2020, the McConnell and Leathwood families were both victims of house fires. Through the Didsbury Elks both families were able to access emergency funds for their children. On July 31, 2020 representatives of the Didsbury Elks Lodge (Margo and Bill Ward) presented a cheque to each family in the amount of \$2000.00 on behalf of the Alberta Elks Foundation and the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children. The Alberta Elks Foundation has emergency funds of \$500.00 per family and the Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children, \$500.00 per child to a maximum of \$1500.00 per family, available to be accessed through your local Elks Lodge when children are the victims of fire.



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# Thank You Letters

## WETASKIWIN MEDI LEND SOCIETY

5106B – 50 Avenue  
Wetaskiwin AB T9A 0S5  
Phone: 780 352-0206

May 25, 2020

Alberta Elks Foundation  
Box 445  
Bentley, Alberta T0C 0J0

Dear Elks Members!

The Wetaskiwin Medi Lend Society thank you for your generous donation and support.

Your funds will be used to assist with the purchase and repair of medical equipment and to assist with operating costs. The needs are many in our community.

We have served thousands of clients since we opened. We operate on a volunteer basis and deeply rely on the generosity of people such as you.

Thank you for helping us to make this lending service possible in our community,

In Appreciation,



Pauline Thoben

Treasurer

Wetaskiwin Medi Lend Society



On August 11, 2020, the Didsbury Elks Lodge presented the Didsbury Hospital with a cheque in the amount of \$1500.00 for the purchase of a magnetic sand table for children to play with while waiting in the emergency department. The funds were made available through the Tabs for Tots program of the Alberta Elks Foundation. The Elks Lodge was represented by Bill Ward, Joan Hannah, and Shirley Thompson. The hospital representative was Shauna Urbanowski (second from the left).

## 2020 Christmas Ornaments Available on our website while quantities last!

*Tab's for Tots was founded in 2000 by Brother Nicholas Henger of the Alberta Elks Association*

*Since it's launch date Tab's for Tots program has donated \$170,741.00 to assist lodges in purchasing medical equipment for hospitals in Alberta, B.C. and Yukon.*

*Thank you for supporting Tab's for Tots this holiday season.*

**Elks Proud**



Dear Elks

Thank you very much for your recent donation to our Library. We were able to purchase a large crayon that holds four tablets for the children to play with. Before we were forced to close it was evident that the children really enjoyed this feature in our library. We are looking forward to the day when all our patrons can have full access to everything the library offers.

Thanks again  
Grace Huisman  
Barrehead Public Library



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## IN MEMORIUM JOHN ARTHUR BLINSTON (JACK) JULY 17, 1935 – AUGUST 17, 2020

On August 17, 2020, John (Jack) Arthur Blinston passed away at 85 years old.

Jack was born in Windsor ON on July 17, 1935, the eldest of five to Arthur and Carrie Blinston. He would reminisce about caddying at the golf course, sneaking watermelons from a nearby garden, running races with his brothers and riding his bike home with ice cream for the family.

Jack and his family moved to Edmonton in 1952. He attended Strathcona Composite, loved performing and being the cool guy in jeans and white tee shirt. At 19 years old, he married Erylss and three kids later, they bought their house in Ottewell where Jack lived for over 50 years. While working at CIL as a steam engineer, Jack made a mid-life change and went to NAIT. He was proud to become a gas-fitter. In 1979, Jack joined the Government of Alberta as a plumbing and gas inspector until at age 65 in 2000. He particularly loved being involved in arson investigations.

He lost Erylss to cancer the following year.

In 2002 a friendship changed to love with his "lady friend" Betty.

In his later years, dementia slowed Jack down and changed him to a quieter person. He was very grateful to all the people who helped him during those years.

Jack was active in the church choir and Scouting before joining the Elks of Canada in 1972. He held many positions within the Elks before becoming the President (Grand Exalted Ruler) of Canada in 1991. Erylss and he had so many great friends and memorable ties through their association with the Elks and Royal Purple. Jack was proud of his memory skills, ability to deliver the rituals of Elksdom in a dynamic manner and of being a member of Sherwood Park Elks. With Betty, Jack continued to be active with the organizations. He also became a member of the Edmonton Elks.

Throughout his life, Jack loved to sing, BBQ tinker with wood especially his signature doll cradle, frame keepsakes hunt at the Wild Hay, make wine, fix things, have a beer and visit friends. He was opinionated and outgoing. His bushy eyebrows amused the grandkids and he always thought it was funny to pop out his false teeth at them.

Jack is survived by daughter Vicky and son-in-law Dick St. John; his girlfriend of 18 years, Betty Leshenko, five grandchildren (Josh, Jenna, Luke, Kathryn and Kristin); and nine great grandchildren; sister Kathy (Bud) Marlinger; brother Ron Blinston; special nephew Ronnie Blinston. He was predeceased by wife of 46 years, Erylss, sons Johnny and Bryan, grandson Johnathan, sister Darlene Schaldemose, brother Bill Blinston. Now is not the time for large gatherings so a celebration of Jack's life may be planned later. In the meantime, please raise a beer in Jack's memory and think of a moment that you shared with him. In lieu of flowers and if you wish, donations may be made in Jack's memory to the Elks and Royal Purple Fund for Children or any charity of your choice.



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